

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164199
ORIGIN NEA-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164199

STADIS/////////
FOR CHARGE FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

REF: DAMASCUS 3679

1. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS OF THIS CABLE, I HAVE INFORMED SOLARZ THAT TOUTAH SENSES HE HAS DONE ABOUT ALL HE CAN FOR THE MOMENT AND THAT THE BALL IS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT COURT. I TOLD HIM THAT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SHALOM NEED NOT VISIT DAMASCUS RIGHT AWAY AND THAT WE WOULD MAKE RENEWED PUSHES WITH THE APPROPRIATE SYRIANS AFTER SEELYE ARRIVES.

2. SEELYE WILL BE MEETING WITH SOLARZ TOMORROW, AND WILL ALSO MAKE CALLS ON THE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK CITY BEFORE LEAVING THE US.

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3. APPARENTLY THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF AN EARLY VISIT BY A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, EXCEPT POSSIBLY PAUL FINDLEY.

4. OUR THOUGHT IS THAT YOU SHOULD LEAVE MATTERS WHERE THEY ARE FOR THE MOMENT AND AWAIT SEELYE'S ARRIVAL. YOU NEED NOT RAISE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM

WITH DAOUDY.

5. I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ROWLAND EVANS AND TO OUR OWN INTERESTS IF HE VOLUNTEERED THE COMMENT THAT ALLOWING SOME SYRIAN JEWISH WOMEN TO COME TO THE US HAD BEEN WIDELY APPRECIATED AND HAD BRIGHTENED SYRIA'S IMAGE IN THE US, AS LONG AS HE LEFT IT AT THAT. I THINK IT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA IF EVANS WENT BEYOND THAT, SINCE ASSAD MIGHT SUSPECT AND THEREFORE RESENT OUR PUTTING THE ISSUE IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESS IN THIS WAY. WE LEAVE IT TO YOUR FINE JUDGMENT. PLEASE NOTE THAT ROWLAND EVANS IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE AND YOU COULD USE MY NAME FREELY IN GIVING HIM WHATEVER ADVICE YOU DECIDE UPON. VANCE

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